

it not a reasonable inference from this statement that the Government is more concerned to carry on public works, as to the wisdom of which in the first place there was certain doubt, or is it concerned with multiplying many times our effective fighting forces, both in men and in food? It is our bounden duty to produce more food—the urgency of which is only partially covered by Mr. Burrell's excellent propaganda in the country—a propaganda which ought to have been undertaken years ago, and the necessity for which was repeatedly pressed on the Government immediately after it went into power. Sir George Paish—a reliable testifier—has told us that we have now plant capable of taking care of two or three times our capacity to produce. What is the imperious emergency—public works or war?

WHO PAYS INTEREST?

Our interest charges will, of course, greatly increase from this forward. Our outlay for this year on this account will exceed sixteen millions. In next year's estimates they appear at twenty-one and a half millions. We must also look forward to a large and increasing pension list expenditure.

It is the plain truth that Canada cannot meet all the interest charges that have piled up in the last few years, out of the production that is in sight for the next few years. The Minister of Finance is compelled to admit that, broadly, we have been paying interest out of capital. Every day's evasion of this crucial situation is only so much worsening of the inevitable crisis, war or no war. Let anybody look into the British Columbia situation, for instance, and see the permanent railway obligations that have been assumed, as electioneering devices, the overbuilding of cities, and the slowness to increase production from the soil, and he will know that for years after the war it will be as impossible for that province to recover its financial health as it is to change the multiplication table.

What is the use of mooning along without the courage to declare the

truth? The divine right to borrow, which has been assumed these many years by governments and private undertakings, is still the dominant idea in minds which have not yet been cured of the infatuation that has enriched many individuals, while it has burdened the nation to an extent that no politician has yet had the courage to admit.

Twenty-five years ago there were 380 people in this Dominion to create the traffic for each mile of railway. This year, if our population has increased as much since 1911—four years—as it did in the preceding ten years, we shall have nine million people, and there will be only 250 people to support each mile of railway. Does anybody suppose we have added a million and three-quarters to our population since 1911?

In our greatest grain-producing Province there are to-day four cities with a population of forty thousand more than the surrounding territory can afford to carry; and two more with about five thousand too many. Yet, with this excess there are only a hundred people to create the traffic for each mile of railway. There were twice as many thirty years ago.

\$180,000,000 SHORT.

Assuming that our total cash requirements for all purposes whatsoever, including our war expenditures, will amount during the coming year to over \$300,000,000, while our revenue on the present basis would yield only \$120,000,000, we are faced with the problem of raising by additional taxation and borrowing a sum in excess of \$180,000,000.

The estimate is for a level hundred millions of expenditure on the war. It is not safe to assume that the war will be over before the next fiscal year is out. Mr. Rowell, the Liberal leader in Ontario, who has made the best propagandist speeches for the war, and has urged the necessity for more men, as no other political leader has urged it, points out that to supply as many men in proportion to our population as are enlisting in the Mother Country, we should send over 300,000,